

# CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

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### The President's Desk

A mother asks, "What is the ideal child-study club for women and what are its benefits?"

**What is an Ideal  
Child-Study Club  
for Women**

The ideal child-study club is one that *first* enlists mothers with little babies, and which devotes itself to careful study of the physical care of the baby—for unless the baby has a chance to live no child-study later can help that baby.

It has been proved that by this study the death rate of infants can be reduced seventy per cent. That surely is a benefit worth the effort. The next phase of study will be the insight into a baby's inner life, and Froebel's books will help mothers in that. How to cultivate and not blight that pure innocent spirit is the duty of mothers, and only by sympathetic understanding of a little child can one lay the foundations of character. That work begins in infancy, and the benefit of such purposeful intelligent nurture by mothers would prevent most of the crimes in the world.

Is not that result a benefit that is worth while? The care of children under six is a subject that cannot be too thoroughly studied, for neglect or wrong methods then can never be remedied.

When the children go to school if mothers have done all that they may do, the right trend of life has been given. Infancy is past. Childhood, with its many interesting phases of development, requires still further study of the race tendencies as well as the individual characteristics of the child. Mothers will still desire to learn how to nourish body and spirit. They will find benefit from acquaintance with grandmothers who have thoughtfully reared their children, who from experience can often offer valuable suggestions as to what to do and what not to do. Constructive child nurture is what each mother should give. There should be a goal toward which she should aim.

There is no less need of child study when the children come into the teens. Until manhood and womanhood wise mothering is necessary, and absolutely essential for the safety of girls and boys. The benefits of it for children in their teens would be immeasurable.

Question Two: "What are the ideal club activities for mothers of young children?"

Mothers of young children cannot assume *responsibility* for activities outside the home without detriment to themselves and their children.

That does not mean that they cannot be interested, and when possible help at times, but babyhood is short, and so precious that a mother loses much by turning her baby over to others while she engages in activities that cannot compare in value with those at home. Every mother needs change,

intercourse with others, amusement and inspiration. She needs to be in touch with world-questions and community questions, but she will have little time for civic work outside the home at that period of her life.

Whatever refreshes and inspires her to be a better mother and home maker, she should grasp. Reading good books, seeing the beauties of nature, keeping up with educational advances, with music or art, cultivating acquaintance with her children's teachers, knowing her children's companions and their parents, being concerned with local conditions affecting children are activities bearing directly on the great work, preceding all else in importance, at the period when a mother has her little children around her.

Few women have the strength for outside responsibilities during the years of bearing and rearing children. Few women have the strength to do outside work in addition without a physical breakdown. Each mother must decide for herself how to adjust her life so that she will not become narrow and drop behind, so that she may keep in touch with public interests without giving too much of her precious time to their furtherance.

The greatest public interest, the one which will count most in world progress is to have every mother give her best thought and her own companionship and teaching to her children—for if every home did that the world would be a different place.

No mother can afford to live without books—not only books on child nurture, but books of all kinds. A current events club is an excellent outside interest for mothers of young children, and is all the better if it includes the fathers. When mothers study world-conditions which in the aggregate are made by the acts and thoughts of individuals, she gets a glimpse of what she must do in the home to bring up her little part of the next generation to be lifters, thinkers and helpers in the path of human progress. Every mother who instils honesty, reliability and regard for the rights of others as guiding principles of life has set in motion incalculable forces for honor, righteousness and peace.

A valuable suggestion comes from the California State Board when it suggests to every Parent-Teacher Association Child-Welfare Circle or Mothers' Circle that during this war every association appoint a committee of one on War Service to report work done to the next higher chairman so there may be a record of all work done by the Mothers' Congress in every form of war relief.

**Will Parent-Teacher Associations Appoint Committee on War Service to Tabulate and Report Work Done?**

Every organization must respond in some way to the universal call for service, and a record of what each organization does should be reported to the State President and to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

How many are helping French, Polish or Belgian children?

How many are engaged in Red Cross Work?

How many are conserving the food supply through home economy, home gardens, canning and coöperation with Mr. Hoover's recommendations?

How many are helping or ready to enlist mothers for service wherever there are army camps and enlisted men?

How many have worked for war prohibition?

How many have sold Liberty Bonds?

How many have given friendly help to families where father is enlisted in his country's service?

How many are taking to heart the experience of England, France and Germany, where juvenile delinquency has increased greatly, owing to war conditions, and have a special committee to help children who are doing wrong—by providing suitable activities, amusements and friendly guidance?

How many are systematically inviting foreign mothers to meet and learn English and other things that will help them in bringing up their children to be good citizens?

How many are reaching mothers of babies and interesting them in scientific care of babies?

All these things are proper activities and uses for a Parent-Teacher Association, because no other organized body reaches so many homes or can so logically and without intrusion enlist every kind of mother in service which will be invaluable to the nation.

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE hopes it may each month have a long list of associations that can report work on one or more of these lines. There can be no vacation while our country needs the loyal service of every woman and every man.

The appeal for the enlistment of mothers for service in vicinity of mobilization camps is meeting with hearty response everywhere. Whatever other agencies may be doing, there can be no class of people so deeply concerned as are mothers of sons in army and navy service. They can safely and properly give the home influence every boy misses, and incidentally they are learning some of the terrible temptations their boys meet, which they can unitedly remove.

**The Mothers'  
Army and Navy  
Camp Committee  
of the Mothers'  
Congress**

In Philadelphia the Mothers' Army and Navy Committee, under the leadership of Mrs. William T. Carter, 2116 Walnut St., has secured and fitted up a large club house for enlisted men in army and navy. Comfortable beds, airy dormitories, shower baths, a roof garden, a swimming pool, a cafeteria, reading and writing rooms, are among the attractions of this, the first fully equipped club house opened for the boys.

The Mothers' Committee has had the advice and assistance of naval officials and of the boys themselves in making this a place they will enjoy. A generous board of a hospital gave the use of a building they had given up, which was admirably adapted, after renovation, for this purpose. The Needlework Guild gave all the linen. The funds necessary for equipment were contributed by members of the committee. Acquaintance and hospitality have been extended to thousands of boys who have come here from all parts of the country as strangers in a great city. It is believed that a club house for sailors and soldiers is a benefit where a great naval station is established and that this will be maintained permanently.

Members of the National Mothers' Army and Navy Committee in New Jersey have organized to establish and conduct a similar plan in the vicinity of the three great camps in New Jersey—at Cape May, Wrightstown and Monmouth Park.

In Illinois the committee have secured and equipped a large house near the Great Lakes Camp, where recreation and hospitality are offered the boys there. Georgia and Tennessee members of National Committee are actively at work, and will have much to report.

It is mother thought and home influence which is most appreciated by the officers and men in the work the Congress of Mothers has so successfully launched.

Those desiring literature explaining the purpose and methods can secure it by sending to 910 Loan and Trust Building.

Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett is organizing these committees and can be secured to help start the work where help is desired.

## **Mothers and the Flag of our Country**

ADDRESS OF DR. H. V. DAVIS

PRINCIPAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

In a little Massachusetts town a group of young men who were going to the front in our Civil War were to be presented with a flag, which the women of the town had prepared for presentation, and old Governor Andrew, the war governor of the State, was to make the presentation address; the color bearer was a tall, slim, lank countryman, and he had been instructed that when the Governor should present the flag to step forward and take it and step back into the ranks. But somehow or other he became infected with the enthusiasm of the Governor, and as the Governor said, in presenting the flag, that he hoped they would bring it back with honor, this man, as he received it, stood there for a moment, and then broke loose with this sentence: "Governor, we will bring back that flag with honor or God Almighty shall know the reason why."

Most of us as we see the flag from day to day think of it in terms of what it means as a sort of challenge to the world, because it stands for army preparedness, for ability to meet a peculiar and significant occasion; and undoubtedly it is true that if we take that banner and move, as we are moving, down into that rising stream of blood, which shall come to our necks and possibly smother some of us, yet that flag will mean what it meant to that young man, it will mean the taking with honor and leaving some kind of a significant result in the history of the world.

I want to call your attention to the fact that while that flag has that one distinctive function, it also has two others, and one of those is that we fly it at the masthead above our school buildings; and there it is not a challenge, but it is, if you please, the significant mark of instruction in love of country, and I wish that in every school building in this country it

were possible to so give instruction for the development of that affection that if I were to express myself I could say, "I love my country; I love it for its broad fields and for the promise that it has in those broad fields that every single man, woman and child shall be well fed and protected from poverty." I love it for its rivers, which like huge arteries bear the commerce of its interior states. I love it for its lofty mountains, which lift their heads crimson with the dawn, promise of a new freedom, perhaps of a freedom that we have never known. I love it for its natural resources hidden beneath the surface, which some day, thank God, no man shall waste. I love it for its big cities, the centers of industry, the centers of learning, the centers of power. I love it for what is in the streets of those cities, be they alien or whatever belief or class, for out of that we must develop the citizenship of tomorrow. I love it even for its deserts, which can be made to blossom by the waters that come from the ground. I love it because it is my country; and if ever that country should demand of me the supreme demand, then let that flag be my winding sheet, and be as well a silent witness at the gate of the future of one life given in devotion for that which is most dear, for it shall be unfurled again and it shall give promise to another generation of renewed inspiration, of renewed attack upon the great world problems that are before us.

That is not the main significance. That flag also flies above an American home, with all that it signifies. All of love and affection and all of promise of devotion that can come when homes are brought together to make one great society which we call the state, and that is the phase which

I wish to talk to you about a little this evening.

Undoubtedly the women of this country in the near future are to have the opportunity of universal suffrage. And when that flag floats above the American home it has a little different significance from what it does when it heads the armies of America or when it flies from the masthead over the school house. For it is not a challenge; it is not a promise of the teaching of affection and love; but it signifies an obligation; and when the women take the ballot there goes with it an obligation, not merely to do as well as the men have done—for you cannot do worse—but to do very much better. To simply remain at the same level where suffrage now finds all men, gives no promise of a better state; with that obligation, therefore, what shall the type of training be? What shall be the demand that is placed upon woman as the great teacher of the race, what shall she teach? How shall she teach it? I cannot answer that last question. I am not sure I can answer the first. There are two philosophies abroad in the world about it. They are not both abroad in Europe; they are abroad in America. It is the philosophy which says that the individual is everything, and the philosophy which says that the state is everything. I am not here to defend either one of these; I am not here even to offer an opinion as to which I think the better. But I submit to you mothers of the land, which type of philosophy will you accept as the kind of instruction that shall be given within the walls of your home to your children, for upon the type which you accept depends the America of tomorrow? What kind of teaching shall the mother secure for herself? Not every soldier in America can wear a uniform. The man who tills the soil that the men may go to the front and that the children and the mothers and the sisters may be maintained at home is a soldier, and the man who is not willing to till the soil for those

purposes in times of stress is a traitor. The merchant who stands between the commodity and the consumer, who sees to it that all commodities receive a perfected valuation for the people actually is a soldier; and if he turns that to his own personal interests he is a traitor.

The child that lies in its mother's arms, with all the unconscious potentiality of the few years that are ahead of it, to my mind has in that time of possibility of being bred into it the most distinctive soldierly qualities that the world has ever seen, and it is not altogether absorbed from the mother's arms, but it is breathed out of the atmosphere in which he lives, and which she dominates and the temperature of which she determines.

Now, therefore, if the mothers of the land do not make a distinct decision for themselves as to the type of instruction that they will give to their boys and girls with reference to the relation that exists between the individual and the state then you will see a widely varying type of citizenship within the next generation. Years ago some one made a very significant remark when he said that "By education you can change the entire mentality of a people within a century."

Do you know that it does not take very much to make any particular topic of thought a significant purpose for conflict? Why, it is only a short time, about 1640, when the southern German prophetesses had to take their population out of France. In 1740 what were they doing? They were fighting for what they then called their "mother country" against the very generations from which they had come. If we accept a doctrine of collectivism, then it must be a doctrine of internationalism. It can not be in terms of nationalism. We have got to learn to think in world terms and not in terms of our community, not in terms of our nation alone.

The significant fact is that the mother must determine hereafter the type of training that she is to give in

her home and the significant bearing that it may have upon her child and upon her children.

Where is that going to begin? Where will the preparedness begin? In the nursery. That is what has been the trouble on the basis of the discussion of the state of unpreparedness in America—we did not begin far enough back. We can not recover from the mistakes that we have made in allowing our children to grow up without that type of atmosphere which has meant so much to them, which they have breathed as though it were free air or should have breathed as though it were free air. That type of preparedness must begin in the nursery, and that is an obligation that seems to me the mother takes upon herself when she undertakes to create the Government to develop a state, for that is what that is—a state within a state. It is the type of the larger thing toward which we are consistently moving.

When this war is all over, we will

set ourselves to a new task, and will we not think quite seriously of what the meaning of those mistakes of teaching have been, and will we not think quite seriously not only how we could avoid but how that we could set up some positive influence that was constructive, so that there would be no further need of avoidance of that type of mistake again?

I am asking that this flag, again, as it leads our forces to the front, as it flies above our schools, as it hangs from the verandas of our houses or as it decorates our windows, or as it hangs on the walls of our places of congregation, or as it floats over our churches, shall have a deeper and more significant meaning than it has ever had before in the fact that it shall mean that hereafter the mother has something to say that is devotionally thought out, that becomes a basis of action for the development of a larger internationalism, which means a world peace in terms what we think in the home.

## Work of United States Public Health Service

By DR. WILLIAM C. RUCKER

ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL

There is one thing upon which the winning of this war depends, and that one thing is health, which in its final analysis is the cornerstone of the entire fabric of American civilization.

In bringing to you, the representatives of the mothers of this country, the message of health, I feel that I am to tell you a story which should be an inspiration to all of us in the terrific task which faces the American people today. Upon health rests the production of foodstuffs and munitions, and above all it is upon health that the fighting man—both in the military forces and in the industrial army—must depend in order that he may carry forward his work to a proper fruition.

Just a word about the way that

health is handled in this country, and if I step aside apparently for a moment to explain just one or two things in the Constitution I am sure you will pardon me. In the Constitution of the United States, those powers which are not specifically delegated by the states to the general government remain the powers of the states. There is one power that the states have never delegated to the general government, and that is the police power. Now, under a decision which was made by the first Chief Justice of the United States, health is a police power. Therefore, health, as regards the individual state, is one of the powers of sovereign states. Then, you say at once, "How is it that the Federal Government has

any health powers, since health powers are police powers?" It comes in this way: It is the duty of the general government, first of all, to protect the aggregation of states against all the outside world. In other words, it is just as much the duty of the government to protect the collection of states against the introduction of disease from abroad as it is to protect it from any other foreign foe. In the second place, under the Constitution Congress controls commerce between the states. Now, since disease can spread from state to state through interstate commerce, it is the duty of the general government to protect each of the states against all of the other states; in other words, to prevent the interstate spread of disease.

There are certain broad general functions which the general government has, and one of those is to coöperate with the states in the solution of their individual problems. That means research work, that means the control of epidemics, when they request it, but in the case of the control of the epidemics that work must be done under the delegated police powers of the state; for instance, when I was in command of the anti-plague operations in New Orleans a few years ago, a commission was issued and was given me by the Mayor of the City of New Orleans making me a policeman of New Orleans. I hold a similar commission in several other cities of this country; those commissions as policeman being given to me so that I might arrest rats in the spread of plague.

The Public Health Service came into existence in Colonial times, during the day that the Colonies found that sailors of the merchant marine were constantly falling sick in the Colonial ports. These sailors were not citizens of the places in which they fell sick, yet the citizens of those places were obliged in all humanity to provide places where they could receive medical and surgical relief. So they made representation to the Crown and said, "Since these people are not citizens of the

Colonies it is the duty of the Crown to provide medical and surgical relief for them." An organization was formed which was known as the "Marine Hospital Service."

#### THE EMBLEM OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

The Crown granted—and you will find it in the College of Heralds today—a device to this organization, and the device is very interesting and it is one of the things of which we in our corps are awfully proud. It consists, first of all, of an anchor and the chain of the anchor goes down and comes up and winds around the stock of the anchor, and then back over the fluke. That is called a "fouled anchor," and a "fouled anchor" always means a sailor in distress. Now running across this anchor in another way is a caduceus. A caduceus was the winged rod of Apollo, who was the god of merchants, thieves and doctors, and the story is that with his winged rod one day he came on two serpents quarreling, and that he thrust his rod between them, and that they coiled up the rod and lived there forever afterwards entwined in eternal amity. That is the sign of medicine, and sanitation as it exists in our corps device, which we all wear on the collars of our uniform to this day and it is on the seal of our corps. It means originally medical and surgical relief for the sailor in the distress of sickness. Today it means the nation's mobile sanitary corps against disease.

#### SAFEGUARDING THE UNITED STATES FROM PLAGUES

Wherever you go into a port of the United States, the first thing that you will see, if you are coming from a foreign port, will be a little vessel coming off to meet you. In some ports it is a great big tug; in others it is a small launch, in others it is a pulling boat, depending upon the character of the harbor. But wherever you see that boat you will see on the bow—a big yellow flag, and

on that flag this blue corps device, and that is the flag of the service. Before the vessel is stopped she is boarded. An officer comes up over the side. Maybe it is cold, icy weather; maybe the Jacob's ladder is covered with ice. Boarding begins at daylight and lasts as long as daylight. He comes up over the side and the first thing he asks the captain to show him is his ship's papers. He looks over the ship's papers and then he goes to work and lines up the passengers and the crew and examines them all. If they are coming from a yellow fever port, he walks along and has a man with him with a great big sort of a basket affair that has in it thermometers, each one in its own antiseptic vial, which he puts in the mouths of the passengers; by the time he gets down to the other end of the line it is time to go back and take them out and see who has fever. In that way we catch these people and find out if they have yellow fever or typhus fever or cholera; and in that way we have prevented the terrible epidemics that used to march up and down this land with nobody to stop them.

It seems a far cry to you from that little service that started back there in Colonial times, to the service that is doing this work. It came about very logically. The Government found that this organization grew up with sailormen that had exotic disease, and in that way our men became acquainted with exotic diseases—diseases from abroad; they became acquainted with smallpox, bubonic plague and typhus and cholera; and then when these epidemics came into this country, these were about the only men they had to throw into the big epidemics and try to fight them, and while in the sanitary ignorance of those days they were more or less fighting ghosts, still out of that organization grew the Public Health Service.

#### MARITIME QUARANTINES

In 1878 the maritime quarantines were added and then more and more

health functions and finally, in 1902, somebody decided that we ought to be a public health service; but public opinion was not ready for public health service and so they loaded us down with a double-barreled name—"Public health and public marine service," and they forced us to carry that name until finally we went to Congress and told them that name was so long they would not let any of our officers register at the hotels. On the strength of that, in 1912, five years ago, the name was changed and we became actually the Public Health Service.

#### INSPECTION OF VESSELS

I may say there are 17,000 vessels inspected every year at the maritime quarantine stations of the United States. These carry over 2,000,000 passengers and crews, all of whom are inspected. Closely allied to this is the inspection of arriving alien emigrants. Of course, you can very readily understand that the emigrant may not himself bring disease in. But that is not so important, because the all important thing and the thing which interests you as mothers is the fact that unless the emigrants are very thoroughly overhauled physically, we will taint the blood stream of the American people.

We examine over 2,000,000 people a year in this way.

To show the importance of this work, out of every 30 emigrants examined, one is certified for disease.

There are certain passengers on every vessel whose names do not appear on the passenger list. The one which perhaps causes the most damage is the rats. Rats, as you know, are the animals that have plague, and rats coming ashore infected spread their disease to our American rats, and then our American rats, having perfectly good entry into our homes, spread the plague to human beings through the intermediation of the fleas which they carry on their bodies. When we consider that every case of bubonic plague that occurs in an American

city costs that municipality at least \$7,500, you can very readily understand why the American Government has been willing to spend \$3,000,000 in killing rats in many of the American ports. In the City of New Orleans alone over \$52,000,000 has been spent in rendering that city rat proof, but that is a permanent insurance against plague; and it is more than that, it is a direct weapon against a great many other diseases, notably tuberculosis.

When people come into one of our ports in the incubative stage of typhus fever, and when they carry with them a certain little parasite which is not mentioned in polite society, we find that typhus fever is spread because the louse is the creature that spreads typhus fever, jail fever, ship fever of the alien—the disease which has scourged Mexico so terribly in the last few years; in order to keep that disease out of the United States it has been necessary to have border quarantines all along the Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California border, to prevent the Mexicans from bringing in typhus.

That seems to you a very remote danger, but when I tell you that the European War has already cut down tremendously the labor market in this country, the taking of the 2,000,000 by the draft will still further cut down our labor market, and this is the only place we can get laborers to harvest our crops and feed our people in this next year, you begin to see that unless this work is carried on very carefully we can expect the wheat fields to have in them a people who will spread disease among themselves, consequently to our American people.

Yellow fever is another disease that we are constantly on the lookout for, and in the past twelve years not one single case of yellow fever has occurred in the continental United States. Yet, among us older officers in the Public Health Service, there is not one of us who has not had yellow fever in the line of duty fighting that disease. As a matter of fact, we have

left the bones of our officers all over the southern United States, and over Central and South America, fighting this disease, for not only are these officers stationed in the United States to keep these diseases out, but they are also stationed at ports throughout the world to see to it that disease is not shipped to the United States in American bottoms.

The control of the other communicable diseases is equally important. We are constantly carrying on campaigns against typhoid fever. All over this country we have carried on campaigns against it, and the Secretary of the Treasury has issued an order that any citizen in the United States who desires it may receive free of charge inoculation against typhoid fever at any of the stations of the Public Health Service. That is in order that the disease may be checked in the country, particularly that it may not be spread to our troops.

We are constantly at war with the great white plague, tuberculosis.

All over the South we are carrying on work for the extermination of the malaria mosquito, teaching the people how to drain, teaching them how to put their towns in condition so that this disease which causes so much suffering, so much economic loss, may cease to be.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTROLS SERUMS

One thing that will interest you very much, I think, is the way in which we control the serums, toxins and vaccines in this country. It was only a few years ago that if a child had diphtheria and the doctor had to give him antitoxin, it was with very great alarm on the part of the mother that she gave consent that this might be done. Today it can be done without any fear at all, because the general government examines every lot of diphtheria antitoxin that is manufactured in this country, and no person can make that material and sell it in interstate traffic unless he holds an unrevoked license from the Public Service. You know when

you were vaccinated against small-pox what a tremendously sore arm you had, and you know that nowadays when children are vaccinated they do not have sore arms. The reason is that the service has gone to work and sees that vaccine is prepared in a clean manner, that it does not carry with it the germs of infections and that we can use it with absolute safety.

#### RURAL SANITATION

Closely connected with the work of eradication of typhoid and malaria is the work of rural sanitation. In the past year we have carried on surveys in seventeen different states. We have examined very carefully 85,000 rural homes. In one county we found 78 per cent. of the homes without toilets of any kind whatsoever. In the very best county of these counties we examined in seventeen different states, 22 per cent. of the homes had unsanitary toilets, while in the worst 96 per cent. were unsanitary. In the best county 33 per cent. of the country homes had an unsafe water supply, while in most instances the percentage of unsafe water supplies was about 60 per cent. Just think of it! The people on whom we are depending for food in this great war are endangering their lives and their health constantly by drinking water which contains human discharges. In one case, 80 per cent. of the homes in a county had an absolutely unsafe water supply. These are the reasons why our typhoid death rate is four times as great as that of Germany and England combined. In less than 30 per cent. of the homes were the dining rooms and kitchens efficiently screened to prevent the entrance of filth-carrying flies and disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Is it any wonder that typhoid is called the "Great American disease"? And we expect that we can raise this enormous army of men without having them endangered by people who live in such conditions?

#### SCHOOL HYGIENE

Very closely allied to the other work in the rural districts is the work of school hygiene. Of course, in many of the great cities, many of the schools are in an unsanitary condition, although not in all of the great cities by any means, but of course in the country they are very apt to be neglected.

During the past year we have made a mental examination of more than 18,000 school children, mostly in the rural districts. In one state, out of the over 2,000 children examined, 9 per cent. of the children in that county had mental retardation. Of those who were retarded 36 per cent. were unsound. Over 50 per cent. had noticeable visual defects; 30 per cent. had defects of hearing and 17 per cent. had defective teeth. These children were not feeble-minded, they were simply retarded by physical handicaps, and by proper care by putting their teeth in good condition, by curing their adenoids, by fitting glasses, by curing of hookworm, and other diseases we were able to return the great bulk of those 180 retarded children in that county to very good physical condition.

This is the lesson that we would do well to heed. It simply shows that many a child that is considered a dullard or a slacker is merely a child that is handicapped by something he is not responsible for at all and that his parents should attend to.

There were adjustable desks in only 9 per cent. of these class rooms. Think of it! In other words, we are making our American children fit the desk instead of making the desk fit the child.

Twenty-seven of these schools were without adequate ventilation and in only 42 per cent. of the schools was the illumination from the correct direction. In most states there is a law that you cannot place a horse in a stable directly facing a light. I doubt if you will examine the statute books of the 48 states you will find a similar law for children.

The percentage of feeble-mindedness—actual feeble-mindedness,—not retardation, but feeble-mindedness—varied from .3 of one per cent. to a little over one per cent.

#### TRACHOMA

Perhaps the most romantic story of all of this thing is the story of trachoma. Trachoma is an eye disease and an infectious eye disease. It is the disease that Colonel Sellers, in the "Gilded Age," was going to cure with his marvelous eye water. We have always thought of this disease as existing only in oriental countries, and our wise legislators placed a law upon our federal statute books forbidding any person having trachoma to enter the United States; and a few years ago they gave us a little money and asked us to investigate the health of the Indians. In the investigation of the health of the Indians we found, to our very great amazement, that the great bulk of the American Indians were suffering from trachoma, a disease that we had been spending lots of money keeping out from abroad. Then, we made a very interesting discovery that all over the mountains of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia there were thousands of those people who had this disease. We found that instead of being an oriental disease we had it right here at home.

So we went to work to carry on a campaign against the disease which, next to ophthalmia neonatorum, which is blindness of the neutral zone, an infectious disease, is the greatest cause of blindness. We took ordinary dwellings down in the mountains of Kentucky and turned them into little hospitals. At first it was difficult to get their confidence, but by and by succeeded and they let us come in and examine their eyes. One day a mother was brought in who had four children, none of whom she had ever seen. That woman was operated upon, and you can imagine the very great joy that welled in that mother's heart, when

three weeks later the bandages were taken from her eyes and she saw her children for the first time.

That thing has been repeated many, many times. People came in there who had not seen the light of day for thirty years. They were led in at the end of a stick. People live in a very primitive way up there; and in two or three or four weeks they went home greeting people that they had not seen for years.

During the past year in these little hospitals, over 19,000 trachoma patients were treated at a cost of less than \$40,000. In other words, we saved the sight of 19,000 people at a cost of a trifle over \$2 apiece.

Seventeen hundred of these people were operated upon, either in one of the tent hospitals or at the clinics held in the mountain districts. The officer who is in charge of this work is a very kindly man, an officer in the corps who came from Florida. His name is John McMullen, and down in that country they call him "Good for Sore Eyes McMullen," and *he is* good for sore eyes, because he gave to those people in the last year over 112,000 individual treatments. He goes into a town and there holds a clinic, aside from his hospitals; he will get all of the doctors from all around to come to that clinic, and he will demonstrate how the operation is done. It is an interesting operation, and you may like to know about it. You know in this disease there are formed little bodies underneath the eyelids that look like little grains of sago. They put the patient to sleep and then turn up the eyelids and take a little piece of sandpaper and sandpaper these little sago bodies until they get them sandpapered down, and then they bind up their eyes, and at the end of a few days the inflammation is all gone and the sight is returned. It is marvelous. The doctor first does it himself, showing how, to the local doctor and then the local doctor does the operation. Maybe they operate on 35 or 40 cases in a single forenoon. Think of it! And

he will show each doctor, and will have each one do it three or four or five different times, and the result is that when he goes away he has left behind him a lot of men who know how to cure the disease; then we do not have to bother any more about that district. We have a lot of nurses, a fine lot of heroic women. Living up in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee is not a bed of roses. One of these nurses rode over 4,000 miles last year in visiting the homes of these people. They go in and tell them how the disease is spread. They teach them about the danger of the common towel. They teach them about the common drinking cup. They tell them something about how to build a sanitary privy; they tell them something about how to protect their water supply, and the result is that that nurse is an angel of mercy with healing on her wings, because she brings with her health-giving information and leaves it behind her.

#### EDUCATION BY BULLETINS

We believe in the service that education is the great handmaid of sanitary science, and we try to educate not only in this way but through the printed page. In 1912 the annual circulation of documents was about 300,000. In 1915 it was over 3,000,000 and during the present year we will have distributed free of cost to the citizens of the United States over 6,000,000 documents on health subjects. The early publications of the service were entirely scientific, but now they are of a popular character. I do not believe in making scientific discoveries, and then hugging them to our scientific bosoms. We believe in teaching them to the people, in telling them in a way that the man on the street can understand, and we endeavor to get out a great many things which interest mothers very greatly.

#### THE CARE OF THE BABY

During the present year we have had requests for over 1,800,000 copies

of "The Care of the Baby" from mothers' clubs and welfare associations in the United States. This bulletin is not only published in English, but it is published in French, German, Italian and Slavic.

One hundred and eighty-five thousand copies of "The Summer Care of Infants" was distributed last summer in the months of June, July and August, and during that same time we distributed 111,000 copies of a bulletin on flies.

All of this is done on the magnificent sum of \$75,000 a year. That is all we get.

#### THE HEALTH NEWS

In addition to this, we have a little thing that is my own particular pet, and you will excuse me if I praise it, because I am its father and its mother, its nurse, its doctor and everything else that has to do with it. It is called "The Health News." It covers just one sheet of paper. It comes out just once a week and it goes to 8,500 newspapers, and each one of these 8,500 newspapers publishes it. I suppose you have all seen those little stories that are published with a black line around them in the newspapers—headed "Do You Know That?" They are published all over this country. The "Do You's" are very interesting to me. They start out in the first line containing a compliment, something that will make a man feel complimented, and the second line is a knock-out. The first line says "Do you?" "Clean your teeth carefully" and then a man says, "Sure, I clean my teeth carefully." "Expectorate in the basin?" A man says, "Yes, I do," and he feels rather cheap.

We get those things off every week, and then in them we write little historical stories about sanitation, the little popular things like prevention of colds, the great bulk of the popular things which you see on health in newspapers come out in this way. The "Health News" has done an enormous amount of good, and it is done at practically no expense at all.

All it costs me is a little file on which I slip ideas as I get them, the time of the stenographer that it takes to dictate once a week, the time of a man to set up on an electric multi-graph, and the amount of paper which it takes—that whole business, time and everything else, does not cost the American people over \$300 a year. In addition we get out special articles for the big journals, and when you see them in 99 cases out of a hundred you will never see the name of the service mentioned and you will certainly never see the name of the man who really writes them. You will see the name of the man who gets paid for them, and yet those things go out all over this country. In that way I estimate I am, as the mouth-piece of the service, in this regard addressing an audience of over 30,000,000 people every week.

In industrial hygiene we are doing an enormous amount of work that interests mothers very greatly. The health of the women workers, the effect of the hours of labor upon them. The effects of fatigue, the effect of a posture, the sanitary conditions under which women work—that are of the utmost importance in peace time, but now that women will have to go out into the munition factories, you can see how very much more important they are.

We have investigated the garment industry in New York, and one of the interesting things we did in that connection was to find out the effect of gas hot irons upon the health of women; we found a great many of these irons leaked gas, and that the women were suffering from carbon-monoxide poison; the health of steel workers, the health of miners, child labor studies in Massachusetts—all of these things have been studied by the service in connection with industrial hygiene.

#### STEREOPTICON LOAN LIBRARY

Another piece of work that we are carrying on—and this is another one of my children—is the stereopticon loan library. About two or three

years ago I had a few little stereopticon slides which were my own property, and I found them exceedingly useful, and I conceived the idea of getting up a library of slides which would be for loan to all the people. Now we have over 15,000 different stereopticon slides on health subjects, and anybody in this country who wants to can borrow those slides, and all that it costs you to borrow them is the two cents you pay for your first letter to the Bureau. We will say you want to give a lecture on typhoid fever. You write a letter to the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service saying, "I would like to deliver a stereopticon lecture on typhoid fever on May 2, 1917. Will you please arrange for me to have the slides?" We send you back immediately a great big book of the actual photographs on typhoid fever, and they are all numbered, and you have a blank that comes with it, you fill it out and write in the number of the slides which you want. Then there is a frank which comes with it, and you wrap this book up again, stick the frank on the outside—it is all addressed—check your order for slides, and put it in an envelope, which is also franked, and put them both in the box and they come back to Washington. Then we send out the slides to you in little boxes. We send you five slides or we send you five hundred slides, just as you ask for, and you may keep them for three weeks, or three months, provided you can show that you are really using the slides. We do not send them out just to ornament a closet shelf. Then you go ahead and give your lecture, and having given your lecture you pack the slides back in the box, take the frank that is there for the purpose, stick it on the outside of the box, put the thing in the mail and it is all done, and it has cost you just exactly two cents in order to do this.

In that way we have succeeded in carrying the visual lesson of health to over a million people in the United States, and that is all done

by unpaid lecturers, people who do it because they want to teach. Sunday-school teachers, ministers, and school teachers, librarians and club women, all sorts of people, all up and down this land, are borrowing these slides and getting a great deal out of them.

We will gladly send a list of these slides to anyone who asks for it. The list at the present moment is not up to date, but up to date enough so that you can find all up and down the line beginning with Alaska, and winding up, I think, with skin diseases.

### Program for Parent-Teacher Associations for August

The Programs given from month to month require the service of three members of the association for each meeting. They develop home talent, at the same time providing papers of educational value in child-nurture. They ensure a high standard for the season's meetings, and awaken wider interest in child-welfare as the members learn of the movement throughout the world.

FIRST TOPIC—PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND PRESIDENT'S DESK.

SECOND TOPIC (To be assigned to another member).

WHAT OTHER PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS ARE DOING. See STATE NEWS.

THIRD TOPIC (To be assigned to third member).

CURRENT NEWS OF WORK FOR CHILD-WELFARE, gleaned from all sources, both local and international.

### A Prayer

God grant me kindly thoughts  
And patience through the day,  
And in the things I've wrought  
Let no man living say  
That hate's grim mark has stained  
What little joy I've gained.

God keep my nature sweet.  
Teach me to bear a blow,  
Disaster and defeat,  
And no resentment show

If failure must be mine,  
Sustain this soul of mine.

God grant me strength to face,  
Undaunted day and night;  
To stoop to no disgrace,  
To win my little fight.  
Let me be when it's o'er  
As womanly as before.

*Detroit Free Press.*

## Work for Child Welfare by Parents and Teachers in National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations

### STATE NEWS

#### IMPORTANT NOTICES

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the tenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks attention to the necessity of complying with this rule.

The magazine invites wider correspondence with local circles and associations. Send us reports of what you are doing. It will be helpful to others.

The necessity for brevity will be realized, as space is limited and every month more states send news. News is **WORK DONE, OR NEW WORK PLANNED**. Communications must be written with ink or typewritten.

The **CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE** offers to every **NEW** circle of fifty members one year's subscription free provided that with the application for the magazine is enclosed a receipt from state treasurer showing that dues of ten cents per capita have been paid, and second a list of officers and members with their addresses.

This offer is made to aid new circles with their program and to give them the opportunity to become acquainted with the great organized parenthood of America.

Subscribers to **CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE** should notify the publishers before the 15th of the current month if the magazine is not received. Back numbers cannot be furnished unless failure to receive the magazine is immediately noted.

#### ALABAMA

The town of Huntsville in northern Alabama is proud to enroll its Parent-Teacher Association on the list and since its organization in March it has accomplished quite a bit, viz., getting the promise of the local medical society for examination of the school children in September; getting behind the city street department, for the grading of the grounds of the new high school.

The need of playground apparatus called for funds so as an experiment we held three rummage sales, netting \$73.00. Possibly the word "rummage" does not appeal to one's aesthetic sense, but as the money was easy to get, it appealed to our business sense and it may be a helpful hint to some other association.

The opening of school will see some apparatus on the grounds of the grammar school.

The association is to get a kindergarten teacher here for the next year.

The Alabama Branch of the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations held its annual meeting in April, at the New Exchange Hotel, Montgomery, Ala.

A most satisfactory meeting it proved to be in the work reported having been done, and the plans for the year's work outlined.

Inspiring addresses were given by Dr. B. C. Erenrich, on "The American Child," Mrs. B. F. Hardeman and Mrs. N. L. Bagley.

Dr. S. H. Welch, State Health Officer, asked cooperation with the department in an address on "The Relation of The Board of

Health to Child-Welfare Organization of the State." Mrs. Lorans B. Bush, Deputy Factory Inspector, spoke on "The Rights of the Other Child."

The Woman's College of the city invited the delegates to meet the Faculty and to see the beautiful college building. As the committees of each department had adequately filled their offices everything moved with ball-bearing smoothness, and when the "good-byes" were said all seemed to feel happy, joyous and inspired with the purpose of making earnest effort to further the work of the Congress.

Mrs. J. E. Andrews, of Manchester, Ga., formerly a very active member of the Montgomery Circle, was warmly welcomed by the club. Mrs. Andrews, who has taken a prominent part in the work of the Mothers' Congress in Georgia, since her removal to that state, gave a most interesting talk. She is vice-president for the Third District of the Georgia Congress of Mothers, and president of the Parent-Teacher Association of Manchester, Ga. She has organized three mothers' clubs in that state, which have a membership of eight hundred.

#### CONNECTICUT

The annual convention was held in the high school auditorium in Bridgeport, April 12 and 13. Mrs. E. S. Schwerdtle, president of the Maplewood School association, greeted the delegates. Mrs. Steel, of Hartford, responded for Mrs. W. H. Dresser, the retiring president, who was detained by

illness. Supt. Samuel J. Slawson, superintendent of the Bridgeport public schools, gave a most inspiring address on "Parents' Cooperation with the Teachers." Lieut.-Governor Wilson spoke on "Home Training vs. Street Training"; Rev. John R. Brown, chairman of the recreation committee of Bridgeport, on "Playgrounds"; Mrs. F. J. Goodwin on the "George Junior Republics"; Dean Brown, of the Yale School of Religion, on "Some of the Needs of Childhood." The New Haven Woman's Club extended an invitation to the Congress to meet with them next year.

Mrs. Geo. Brinton Chandler, Rocky Hill, was elected president.

### GEORGIA

REPORT OF THE GRANT PARK SCHOOL  
PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION FOR  
1916-17, MRS. CARL KARSTON,  
*President*

In answer to an appeal for assistance in the reform movement of picture films, we did not cease our activities until we had accomplished tangible results at least locally by securing what is called "Children's Day" at the Park Theatre in our ward where on these days films especially adapted to children—and free of all objectionable and offensive features—are made a specialty.

Through the encouragement of our association and the helpful aid of some of the teachers, there were 270 gardens cultivated by children of our school, realizing approximately \$200 to those actively engaged in this work. The coming year, from present indications, will not only by far exceed these figures relating to home gardens, but the newly inaugurated movement for the cultivation of vacant lots has found such ready response in our school district that we find the demand for vacant lots greatly in excess of what up to the present has been possible for us to secure.

The organization of a Third Ward Council, consisting of the six Parent-Teacher Associations in the ward and the Third Ward Civic Club, for the cooperation in all matters of common interest, is also largely due to our initiative. This organization meets bi-monthly; the various members acting as hostesses alternately.

Perhaps the most ambitious undertaking during the last year was our Grand June Carnival held on an immense lawn at the home of our ex-president during the afternoon and evening of June 15, 1916. The magnitude of this feature can better be judged when you know that nine booths—each one beautifully decorated so as to give

it a distinctive appearance—were built about the grounds; the material and the construction including the stringing of electric lights over the entire grounds was furnished and attended to entirely through and by our members in which fact we take a pardonable pride.

We have two beautiful pictures as prizes for the class having the largest number of representatives of their respective children present at the regular meetings of this association; the class making the best record throughout the year keeps the picture permanently.

To enable fathers to attend, a night meeting was held with gratifying results; at this meeting resolutions were adopted asking Council to provide a much needed class-room auditorium for our school to relieve cramped conditions.

We have endeavored to assist in securing a new building for the panorama of the "Battle of Atlanta," a swimming pool at Grant Park, and taken up the Red Cross Campaign recently made.

Our mid-month sewing meetings, held at the homes of the various members, were continued throughout the year. The articles there prepared will be put on sale at our annual bazaar; the one held last December, with articles thus made, was a great success in many ways.

Lunch for our faculty on our respective meeting-days has been prepared by our members during the entire term of the past two years.

This is the second year of our relief work. Through this channel we provide needy children with the necessities required to keep them in school.

Since the opening of this term, we have, through our relief committee, made and distributed approximately 85 new garments, given out over 125 old garments, have supplied some 25 pairs of new shoes, numbers of pairs of second-hand shoes made serviceable before being distributed, 60 pairs of new hose, 16 suits of new underwear, etc.

Aside from this we have furnished books, sent groceries into the homes of the most unfortunate, and endeavored to solve the problem of supplying lunches to children of families unable themselves to meet that need, by having other of our children take extra lunches to the principal's desk for distribution by the teachers at recess, and in many other ways have we furnished assistance to families in need of our school community.

In this manner we have been able to care for all cases reported to us by the associated charities within the confines of our school district.

A first-aid-to-injured cabinet, installed by us some time ago, is being kept equipped by our Association.

Our grounds committee, too, has been very active. With the assistance of Mr. Cochran, manager of parks, trees have been reset; 500 plants—250 of which were donated to us—have been added to our already beautiful hedge which now encircles the immense school grounds. 30 flowering shrubs have been placed around the school house; 250 shoots of ivy have been planted to cover the stone casing 6 ft. high around the building; 250 bulbs—some of which the school supplied from their treasury—as well as a Cherokee Rose (our state flower) and numbers of other roses were put out on the south side of the building. Under the guidance of the chairman of this committee a garden spot is cultivated in the school yard by the children of the seventh grade which has proven profitable to them.

To defray incidental expenses in all these activities funds had necessarily to be raised and so in addition to what has already been mentioned, we had a spelling bee, given by the grounds committee, where \$40.85 was realized, and an Olde Deestrick Skule for the benefit of the relief committee, increasing their exchequer by about \$25. With donations amounting to about \$23 by interested friends, we have thus been enabled to meet practically every demand.

At present we are preparing for the conduct of a club booth at the Southeastern Fair to be held next fall.

Last but not least it has ever been our aim to make our meetings instructive and profitable for all who attend through interesting talks on various subjects by selected speakers invited for the occasion.

## ILLINOIS

### BLOOMINGTON

May was marked by a singular sense of inspiration and consecration. The sons of many of the mothers had just left or were about to leave for the war, and the spirit of service and love that were the result of their going was very beautiful.

A departure from regular custom was section meetings or round tables which were voted so great a success that it was decided to make them a part of future conventions.

The speeches of the meetings were by Mrs. Harriet Taylor Treadwell, of Chicago, on "Mothers in Civics and Education"; Mrs. Francis D. Everett, of Highland Park, on "Value of Organization"; Mr. M. P. Lautz, on "The Rural Child and His School"; Mr. J. H. Richards, of Chicago, on "Community Ideals"; Miss Eula Draton, on

"Social Life in the High School"; Mrs. W. S. Hefferan, on "The Adjustment of the High School to the Needs of Youth," and President David Felmley, on "The Value of Efficiency." There were reports of work accomplished by delegates from all over the States, reports showing great increase in comprehension of the purposes of our organization and of help given to the school, and reports of State Committees.

The president of the Congress is a member of Red Cross and requested Illinois Parent-Teacher Associations to continue their meetings through the summer for war relief work. Most of them are meeting from one to eight times a month, and accomplishing a vast amount of work.

The plan suggested by our National President of establishing home influences about the boys in the mobilization camps has been carried out in Illinois by the opening, on June 23, of a Navy Boys' Club, at Waukegan. This is only a few miles north of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station with its 8,500 boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five. After consulting freely with officers, chaplains and Y. M. C. A. leaders it was decided to go to Waukegan instead of Fort Sheridan, because this naval camp is much larger and the boys much younger, and therefore more susceptible to temptation and homesickness. The chaplain at the naval station has named the club for us—The Jolly Tar—and the boys like the name as well as the club. The house is a big, old brick "mansion" standing in its original four acres of wooded ground, on the car line running from the Training Station to the business part of Waukegan, where the boys go by hundreds, finding there nothing more inspiring to do than walk the streets or go to a moving picture show. Here in the club we have victrolas, a piano, a pool-table, books, writing materials, magazines, games of all sorts and plenty of easy chairs. A matron is always in charge of the place, a woman whose own son is in the army and who loves to feel that she is helping some other mothers' sons. Besides this are two visiting "mother-hostesses" who are on hand to contribute whatever service may be desired. The sailors are very enthusiastic about their home club and we are very happy in feeling that we are in a way able to act as mothers to these boys, many of whom are thousands of miles away from home.

In addition to this we are providing to the chaplains lists of names of women who invite the boys to their homes for the week end or simply for Sunday.

The coming year is so full of possibilities, both beautiful and terrible, that we wait

with bated breath and prayerful hearts, ready for whatever duty or sacrifice may come, and with hands outstretched for service. Let us not feel that the old forms of work must be deserted for the new patriotic ones, rather let us incorporate into one established purpose of child betterment, the present opportunities for service to our country and our children.

## IOWA

### COUNTY CONFERENCES

*Winnebago County.*—Forest City put on a week's conference in April on child-welfare, with the coöperation of churches, schools, and the surrounding community. The conference was opened by Mrs. Allen O. Ruste, President of The Iowa Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, as the speaker. A conference was held for the purpose of organizing a Parent-Teacher Association with the school superintendent, teachers and members of the Tourist Club present. A tentative organization was effected.

*Floyd County.*—Charles City held its annual Child-Welfare Conference on May 7 to 11, with a Home Economics Short Course with Miss Clara Sutter, of Iowa State College, instructor. An exhibit consisting of a "Do Care" and a "Don't Care" house proved an attractive feature, viewed by a large number of children as well as those attending the conference. A complete outfit of baby's clothing was on exhibit. Dr. Kepford, state lecturer for the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, was the principal speaker, on the "Conservation of the Child." Floyd County was organized for child-welfare work in 1913.

*Van Buren County.*—Mrs. E. E. Sherman, treasurer of the State Congress, is active in the organization of parent-teacher associations. Keosauqua has organized a parent-teacher association in membership with the Congress. Bonaparte, Stockport, Bentonsport, Hillsboro and other rural districts are organizing, and planning for a county meeting in the fall, to unify, extend the work, and take up larger movements for the welfare of the child. This movement has the active coöperation of the county superintendent, Miss Lizzie V. Meredith, in teachers institute work, and physicians.

*Davis County.*—Dr. Clara L. Cronk, of Bloomfield, reported the organization of Davis County last fall. The first call was sent out to all women's organizations in the county to send delegates for the purpose of considering organization for the furtherance of child-welfare work in this county. Mrs. E. G. Lockhart was made president.

*Audubon County.*—Mrs. F. S. Watts, of Audubon, has been the inspiration of a live county organization, having promoted organization in every town in the county. Its president is Mrs. Minnie Thomas. This organization is made up of mothers' circles studying the pre-school age, and the large mothers' club of more than a hundred members in membership with the State Congress since 1900.

## KANSAS

### GREETING OF KANSAS PRESIDENT TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

Kansas is in hearty sympathy with each of the various departments which are the work of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. I urge at all times a close adhesion to such activities as are for the direct benefit of the child, rather than for efforts that include other betterments in which the child may be secondary. Civic betterments and social reforms have many organizations that attend to the things that especially concern the citizen and grown-up folk. I urge the keeping of our organization close to the child without intermediate issues.

One of the most helpful of our efforts is to cultivate the community spirit. In school matters the benefit of one child should be the betterment of all of his fellows. There is no caste with children—they are comrades in spirit if not in social environments. This makes doubly necessary the proper care and training of all children.

There should be, at all times, a close communion between the parent and the teacher, and the parents and the teachers. The community spirit is one of the biggest assets of our work—it is the foundation of any success we may derive. The community spirit should be the first and underlying thought in every department. The community spirit is all-powerful—without it the most strenuous efforts not infrequently fail.

There is the home life, the largest factor as to time and influence; the school life, which covers but a small part of the time, and exercises only such influences as are brought to it; then there is the street and social life, which share with the home the fixing of principles in the mind of the adolescent. The home and the social environments made the predominating, compelling trend of the community.

The community spirit must be cultivated—unified—if we make potent the admirable principles and aims of the Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teacher Association.

## MAINE

The following letter was issued by the president of the Maine Branch.

May 8th, 1917.

*Dear Co-workers:* The organization of the activities of the Maine Branch, National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, is now completed.

Able chairmen are at the heads of the various departments; a comprehensive Year Book has been issued; the local Parent-Teacher Associations are well officered and working harmoniously; the Mothers' Aid Bill will go into effect in July.

Your president feels that the time has come when she can ask to be released from her office, which she accepted with the statement that she would serve only until such time as the work was organized.

Believing this has been accomplished, your president hereby tenders her resignation to take effect May 25, 1917, at which time a joint meeting of the Board of Managers and Executive Committee (whose power it is to fill vacancies in office until the next annual convention) will be held.

With cordial thanks to all who have given such loyal support to the organization and its officers.

Most sincerely yours,  
(MRS. D. W.) ALICE F. ADAMS,  
*State President.*

In accordance with her desire Mrs. Adams' resignation was accepted at the joint meeting of the Board of Managers and Executive Committee, May 25, and Mrs. W. F. Jones, Norway, Me., vice-president, was elected as president. Mrs. Jones has been a most efficient worker as chairman of the Magazine Committee. Mrs. Adams was elected vice-president thus continuing her connection with the Board of Managers.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Two important conferences were held in May—one at Manchester, presided over by Mrs. D. T. Beaton, the councillor for that district of Essex County, and the other at Worcester, presided over by the councillors, Mrs. J. S. Whittemore and Mrs. L. A. Greenwood.

These county conferences, five of which have been held this past year in various parts of the State, are proving of very great value. Each parent-teacher association is brought into touch with her councillor and has an opportunity to bring forward the problems which arise in her circle and community. These conferences are largely attended by many of the state officers, ten being present

at the Manchester Conference and seven being present at the conference held in Worcester. This gives the individual members an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the state officers and at the same time these state officers are ready with suggestions, questions and answers at the "round table" hour at which free discussion is solicited and which is proving to be one of the most helpful sessions of the day.

The following telegram was sent recently from the State Board to President Wilson, Gov. McCall and Senators Lodge and Weeks:

"The Massachusetts Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, representing a body of 9,000 members, in its executive meeting today unanimously voted to endorse national prohibition, as a war measure, for the purpose of further conserving the food supply; and safeguarding the morals of the young men of the nation now training for service in the Army or Navy.

"(Signed) MARY W. FRENCH, *Cor. Sec.*"

## MISSOURI

The Missouri State Branch of the Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teacher Associations, to the number of one hundred and seventy-six, began arriving in Carthage at the (to housekeepers) tragic hour of six A. M. on the morning of May 8. Autos were waiting, so within the hour each delegate had been shown to the home of her hostess.

The Congress gathered in the auditorium of the splendid high school building for the opening session of the fifth annual convention.

After the invocation, by Rev. W. G. Clinton, of the First M. E. Church, the high school chorus, fifty voices, under the directorship of Miss Mabel Hope Justice, gave a "Group of Songs." The music of the children of the public schools was one of the pleasures given the Convention by Carthage.

The welcome of the local Mothers' Congress was extended by Mrs. David Butchers, and gave a hint of the pleasures and sights in store, yet held the note that sounded clearly through the public consciousness: The fact that war existed. That we, the women, have our part. And that the question of child culture, more than ever, should dominate the consciousness of women.

Prof. Theo. W. H. Irion, professor of psychology in the Springfield (Mo.) State Normal, gave, indeed, "A New Conception of Child Life." His talk was crowded with invaluable and thoroughly to-be-put-into-practice suggestions. It is a distinct loss to every mother that she may not have this in full, for its keynote was: "Children learn

only through participation in meaningful processes." "Participation" and "meaningful," as used in this one sentence, are well worthy of study.

The reception to the delegates to the congress followed this. The corridors of the building were so filled with the welcomed and the welcoming that identities were well-nigh lost. The spirit of the occasion served in lieu of introductions—and the state branch came to the business session of Wednesday morning with a full sense of at-homeness.

Mrs. John S. Farrington, state historian, gave the reports from old circles. In her talk Mrs. Farrington enunciated one sentence that should go to every parent-teacher association in the State: "Do what you are asked to do!" This means that letters sent from the board to local circles should be answered. The board can conduct its business,—the business of the associations—only when the condition of the association is a matter of their knowledge. Letters must bring this knowledge, and letters sent officers of the circles are sent for the purpose of getting, as a rule, specific and needed information. So, whether it is on a subject of greater, or of less, interest to you, please answer!

The conference of presidents, directed by Mrs. M. J. Hall, vice-president, following Mrs. Farrington's talk, developed what may be called the slogan of the convention: "Take This Thought Home With You!" The spirit of this assembly, it may be said in passing, was impressive—and unusual. Comparatively little was said of what had been done unless some helpful thought could be passed on as to what may be done. There was no evidence, either, of what may be called social anticipation. It was most evident that the mothers of Missouri had gathered together for an even more than ordinarily serious, earnest discussion of child-welfare. The consciousness of the national value of these men and women of tomorrow, and of the vital importance of wisdom, now, on the part of the mother and the teacher, fairly charged the atmosphere.

Prof. W. L. Calhoun pleaded for music in the public schools as a major study, credits to be given precisely as in other studies.

The value of sectional conferences was established in a discussion headed by Mrs. C. Glenn Symms, one of the state vice-presidents. Mrs. Symms advocated the division of the state into groups of counties, these in turn to have conferences.

Miss Jennie Hildenbrandt, State Chairman of Membership and Organization, propounded a plan for Missouri to get more kindergartens for her children.

Prof. Wood, superintendent of the Carthage schools, emphasized the need of the teacher for parental coöperation.

Mrs. William Ullman opened the conference on child hygiene, and held the unwavering attention of every woman present. Her topic is so vital, and it has been found that knowledge, understanding and practice are in a steadily diminishing ratio. Nothing could be needed more, yet the age-old customs of caring for children form a difficult barrier for the propagandist to go up against. Every ignorant mother and father—rather, every adult child of an ignorant of child hygiene mother—is a refutation of the need of propaganda: He proves that a child can survive!

Miss Louise Stanley, of the Department of Home Economics in the Missouri State University, exhibited garments cut and made at the university and recommended to the public.

Every delegate listened with attention to Mrs. Carl Eaton's statements of the helps the Congress has to offer its members. Mrs. Eaton is chairman of the literature department and she opened up to the rural district, particularly, undreamed-of possibilities and suggestions. The Congress attitude of helping to accomplish the things it has first made clear as possibilities was not better illustrated throughout the convention.

After the report of the Committee on Resolutions, the Congress adjourned its Fifth Annual Session in Missouri, and was taken by the citizens of Carthage for a tour of the city, the near-by mining regions, "Carthage Marble" quarries, and to see the magnificent county hospital, built through the efforts of the women of the county.

The state board remained in session over Friday, May 11. At 1:00 P. M. of that day the hostesses of the convention gave them a luncheon at the Country Club.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire State Convention was held at Manchester on Friday, May 25, the morning and afternoon sessions taking place in Carpenter Memorial Library and the evening session being held in the high school hall.

The president, Mrs. A. H. Harriman, of Laconia, in her opening address, emphasized the desirability of making the school houses social centers. "Educators tell us," she said, "that it is the way men and women spend their leisure hours that determines the moral standard of the country."

Mrs. A. C. Knowlton, of Manchester, welcomed the delegates. The effort made

during the past year has resulted in more than doubling the membership. The associations have accomplished much special work. In Milford an appropriation of \$8,000 was secured for the erection of a vocational high school. In Rochester domestic science and manual training have been introduced into their schools and a gymnasium has been equipped. In New Ipswich school gardens have been made a success and canning clubs organized. A Child Study Department has been started at Durham under the leadership of Mrs. Sarah L. Ladd. Portsmouth, Rye and Manchester also had good reports, while Derry association has established nurse inspection.

Prof. J. L. McConaughy, of Dartmouth, spoke of the necessity of the parents interesting themselves sufficiently in the schools to visit them.

The main address of the evening was by A. E. Metzdorf, of Springfield, Mass., where the city has provided many social centers in the school houses with the result that several public dance halls have closed for lack of patronage. Educational moving pictures are provided, public music is fostered and various other things are done to satisfy the play instinct that is strong not only in boys and girls but in the men and women of the community.

Mrs. Milton P. Higgins, National Vice-President, brought the greetings of the National Congress to the State of New Hampshire and congratulated them on their advancement.

### NEW JERSEY

At a recent meeting of the executive board of the New Jersey Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, it was unanimously voted to endorse national prohibition as a war measure for the purpose of furthering the conservation of the food supply as well as for the purpose of safeguarding the morals of the young men of the nation training for service in the Army and Navy.

A copy of this resolution was sent to President Wilson, to the Senators and Representatives at Washington, as well as to Governor Edge, in order that our national and state government may know what the mothers of the State are doing to protect their boys.

The National President, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, has appointed Mrs. Wellington E. Bechtel, of Haddonfield, Mrs. William M. Sandford, of Plainfield, and Mrs. Alexander Marcy, of Riverton, as representatives of New Jersey to serve on the National Mothers' Army and Navy Camp Committee for En-

listment for Mothers. The object is to interest mothers in safeguarding their sons while in the training camps. Three large camps are located in New Jersey, one at Cape May, one at Wrightstown and one at Monmouth Park.

### OHIO

Our Parent-Teacher Club has recently finished its first year.

It has been an interesting year from the first effort—that of celebrating Child Labor Day—to the crowning effort of "Better Baby Week." Our Better Baby Week was a great success. Two hundred eight babies were examined by physicians, dentists and specialists. The prize baby scoring 99.7 per cent.

The exhibits and lectures were full of interest and education. Our slogan: "Baby Welfare Station for Hamilton" awakened much interest in that subject, so that a fund was started to establish such a station, and we hope to open up by the first of July.

Of no less interest and importance was our work toward dress reform among school girls. An interesting discussion led to the adoption of the enclosed resolutions.

We wish that other clubs would discuss this subject and adopt some simple resolutions with a view to educating the feminine mind in proper school dressing.

The magazine is a great help and inspiration to us.

The Ohio Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations is planning to hold its annual convention in Columbus, October 26 and 27. The Executive Board met recently at Painesville, and held a town meeting at the hall, where Mrs. J. W. Sawyer, President, and Mrs. J. K. Francis, National Recording Secretary, were the speakers. Three hundred and fifty were present at the meeting.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

The state board of managers for the South Dakota Branch of the National Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teacher Associations met in May in the city of Mitchell.

Our state president, Mrs. S. H. Scallin, having resigned, on account of a press of home duties, and other work devolving upon her, it became necessary to call a meeting to elect a new president. I am glad to introduce to the National Board of Managers, to the National Officers and to the readers of CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, Mrs. Jean McKee Kenaston, of Bonesteel, S. Dak., who is now president of our State Branch.

Mrs. Kenaston is an able woman whose

heart and soul are in the work, and who has the natural ability, as well as the trained mind to put into this official position.

She was one of our vice-presidents and will enter the work understandingly. We state chairmen and local officers feel renewed interest and will hope to make a good showing for next year.

Mitchell has four circles: Central, which includes the Central and Whittier schools and precincts, Lincoln, Longfellow, and Eugene Field.

Meetings were held regularly during the school year, and will be resumed in September.

There have been difficult problems to meet in the way of attendance, etc., but it is hoped these will be solved later on.

We need more subscribers for the *CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE*, and need to learn how to get parents interested in the work.

### TENNESSEE

Many of the Parent-Teacher Associations of the State are remaining active during the summer, mostly in view of the present National situation. Active work is being done in Red Cross, food conservation, gardening, canning and home economics.

During Red Cross week, with Mrs. Eugene Crutcher, State President, as Chairman, about 175 members were enrolled in Red Cross Society. At Fayetteville the Parent-Teacher Associations are giving their best efforts to knitting for the Army and Navy.

At Chattanooga the Parent-Teacher Associations are coöperating for the comfort of the soldiers in camp at Ft. Oglethorpe.

Mrs. Edward Lauderbach has been appointed as a member of the National Mothers' Army and Navy Camp Committee of the Mothers' Congress and will enlist mothers to serve in vicinity of Fort Oglethorpe.

Cookeville Parent-Teacher Associations are showing up splendidly in the Red Cross work.

### NASHVILLE

The Parent-Teacher Associations of Glenn School have purchased a canner and will launch their movement with a demonstration rally. Mrs. F. E. McKay will demonstrate. The President, Mrs. D. F. Allen, announces that the canner will be used by the girls of the school in canning the products of the Glenn School garden, which has been managed by Professor Manlove.

All interested will meet at the school and the work will be done in the schoolyard.

Mrs. J. B. Totten, Chairman of Better Babies Examination, states that applications for entries are now coming in. The examina-

tion will be held as usual at the Parent-Teachers' Clinic, September 4-8, and Dr. R. H. Perry, who conducted the examinations last year, will be in charge.

### VERMONT

A community center has been established in Pittsford and other places.

Training teachers have pledged themselves to form Parent-Teacher Associations and these teachers will go into the rural schools to teach.

Children's exhibits have been held at county fairs and in rural sections where prizes have been offered for competitive work done in domestic science, manual training, dressmaking, cooking, etc. Fathers as well as mothers have joined the association. School libraries have been established; sanitary towels and curtains furnished; department school gardening introduced; relief work done on a large scale; domestic science talks. In many towns the schools have their own savings banks. Window shades rolling from the bottom have been given. Medical and dental inspection established. Tooth brushes and paste provided where necessary. High school dances chaperoned. Committees appointed to visit the schools and in that way bring about a fuller understanding between parents and teachers.

### WASHINGTON

The seventh annual convention of the Washington State Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations was held at North Yakima, May 2-4.

About 250 registered delegates were seated in the First Presbyterian Church, Tacoma sending the largest delegation, with Seattle a close second.

Mrs. J. C. Todd, of Tacoma, State President, presided in her usual capable and pleasing way.

During a brief introductory to her address Mrs. Todd paid a glowing tribute to Mrs. C. E. Beach, of Olympia, past president of the Washington branch, who passed away some months ago.

Speaking before the convention of delegates and members from all parts of the state, Mrs. Todd outlined her hopes for the coming year, paid tribute to the members who have worked so loyally during the past year and urged the women to keep their minds true during the coming shadows of war.

Special mention was made of Miss Clara Meisner, Ellensburg, head of the kindergarten department, who worked for the

passage of the kindergarten law; Mrs. Josephine Preston, state superintendent of schools, who recently issued a pamphlet on parent-teacher work as part of the publicity of the state department of public instruction; Mrs. Geo. Funk, Olympia, who has been responsible for the continued publication of the Washington Parent-Teacher Magazine.

The congress passed resolutions strongly indorsing the Boy Scouts; approving of the school nurse and her employment in every district; requesting the next legislature to pass a bill requiring birth registration and providing for the issuance of birth certificates. A resolution of condolence will go to C. E. Beach of Olympia, expressing the convention's sympathy for the death of his wife, one of the leaders in parent-teacher work in the state of Washington.

Several changes were made in the constitution, one of special interest being the change in the method of election. Henceforth the Australian ballot will be used instead of the usual nominating committee.

Mrs. Robt. Coffy, State Treasurer, reported a balance of \$355.86 in the treasury—over \$125 more than at the close of last year's work.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. J. C. Todd, Tacoma, president; Mrs. G. D. McQuesten, Tacoma, first vice-president; Mrs. W. J. M'Renn, Seattle, second vice-president; Mrs. Arthur Gunn, Wenatchee, third vice-president; Mrs. C. A. Varney, North Yakima, recording secretary; Mrs. Wm. F. Dodge, Tacoma, corresponding secretary; Mrs. W. W. Downing, Auburn, treasurer; Mrs. S. D. Douglas, Pasco, auditor; Mrs. A. J. Morley, Aberdeen, historian.

Tacoma was chosen for next year's convention, thus closing a very successful congress, the entire program being one of benefit to both parent and educator.

Not enough can be said of the hospitality of the citizens of Yakima, who met all trains with autos decorated with the blue and gold of the Mothers' Congress. Homes were opened to the visiting delegates and autos were always at the disposal of guests who were treated to drives about the well-kept level city and into the surrounding country with its beautiful irrigated orchards and prosperous looking farms.

#### WISCONSIN

The seventh annual convention of the Wisconsin Branch of the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations was held at Sheboygan, May 10-12. About seventy-five delegates were present from many different parts of the state.

A ladies' double quartette of Sheboygan had charge of the music during the convention.

Supt. W. P. Roseman, of the local public schools, welcomed the visitors on behalf of the city. There is an organization in every school in Sheboygan. It is through the efforts of the Parent-Teacher Associations that a trained nurse has been secured for the schools. The subject of vocational guidance has also been taken up. And a survey of the factories has been made with a view of finding out just what the child is best fitted for, physically and mentally, after leaving the grades in the schools. It was urged by Mr. Roseman that a committee from the Congress be asked to assist in this work.

Mrs. A. H. Betts, the past president, responded to the address of Mr. Roseman in her most happy vein.

The president, Mrs. Edward Hammett, of Sheboygan, in her address, spoke of a decided growth in the work of the Parent-Teacher Associations in Wisconsin during the year. There has been an increase of over thirty per cent. in membership, which now reaches nearly 2,000. Milwaukee leads in the number of associations, having twelve; Kenosha is second with eight. There are forty-three associations in the state and eight child-welfare circles. Three new standing committees have been added since the last annual meeting, namely: social centers, kindergarten extension, and film betterment. The president urged that every member of every Parent-Teacher Association cooperate with the Red Cross organization, the Council for Defense, and other kindred organizations. One program a year should be of a patriotic nature. Associations can also render a great service by assisting in the Americanization of the foreign-born mothers.

Reports were read from local associations throughout the state showing an increasing interest in parent-teacher work and an enlarged field for service.

One of the very interesting talks of the convention was given by Dr. H. L. Wright, Health Commissioner of Kenosha. His subject was "The Educational Phase of Health Work." Dr. Wright emphasized the fact that preventative medicine is now the universal cry. The preventative side rather than the curative side is practiced. Today, the public schools, libraries and universities, and other public institutions are spreading knowledge in regard to methods of preventing disease.

Other speakers were: Dr. Ida Schell, of Milwaukee, who spoke on "Child Welfare," and the young men who have and are enlisting in the army, navy, and officers'

reserve corps,\* Mrs. W. S. Hefferan, of Chicago, who spoke on "The Development of a more Intelligent Parenthood," urging mothers to forget the rugs, polished floors, the piano, and the beautiful lawns, and to remember that the home is for the children. She advocated one standard of morals for the boys and girls.

Rev. David Thomas spoke on "American Citizenship."

Resolutions were passed pledging support in the movement to use economy in conservation of food and coöperation in prevention of fire in homes, schools and community.

## **Your Child-Welfare Magazine**

With the August issue the magazine completes its eleven years of faithful service in carrying to its readers the messages which promote many phases of child welfare. It is the official medium of the Mothers' Congress for reaching members and keeping them in touch with the parent body. Only through the printed message can this be done, and only as it is done can the many groups be welded and united into a great national body of people studying the welfare of the child, and striving unitedly to give each one a square deal and a fair chance in life.

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE exists to help organized groups of parents and teachers as well as individual mothers and fathers. In a letter sent out by a committee of the National Board asking how it serves the need in different states, replies come from various states. California said: "The magazine carries a certain dignity and authority that seems to have been pleasing to our membership. We do not understand that CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE is in competition with the mothers' magazines which mothers feel are useful to them in meeting everyday problems. The present style is good. It might be well to give Department Chairmen the responsibility of providing for special numbers on their several lines of work, with the understanding that they secure articles by authorities. The State News could be made more helpful if press chairmen were more alive to their duties. In California we urge every association to subscribe for the magazine as a gift to its president, and recommend that the twelve numbers be bound into a volume for club use. This year we hope to meet our quota of subscriptions. We should do more to help in making it a success from every stand-point mentioned by the committee."

Colorado says: "We do not think it advisable to confine the Magazine to State News and suggestions from Department Chairmen, but advise practical suggestions from them each month. We do not wish other articles omitted, but suggest that they be suitable for program use in Parent-Teacher Associations. The form of the magazine is

very pleasing. We suggest that one good story a month relating to child welfare, that could be told to the children or at our meetings, would be an addition."

Connecticut replies: "We feel that State News and suggestions from Department Chairmen are of most vital interest, but doubt if it is wise to omit all other articles. Our chairmen feel that some who now take it would cease to do so if it were confined to State News."

Idaho says: "Concerning your inquiry as to the practical value of CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE in the present form, we think it very helpful. The suggestions from Department Chairmen add to its value. We would be sorry to have the other articles omitted. We are pleased with our magazine and hope it will continue to improve as it has been doing of late years."

Illinois: Illinois would prefer to see the magazine cut down to State News and President's Desk only, to be called the "Child-Welfare Bulletin," and the price, if possible, reduced to fifty cents. We all feel that it has always been a fine, dignified magazine with real value as a technical periodical.

Maine: I do not think the magazine would be as much read if it had only State News and suggestions from chairmen. I think the other articles add greatly to its value. I should not advise a change in form. So you see I am very well pleased with it as it is.

New Jersey: Our young mothers need practical suggestions along simple, homely lines upon the care of the child—as well as the mental and moral needs, but as an official organ—to be held as reference—of plans and work accomplished by local and state organizations, it would be more appreciated by officers of local associations in a state. We have found in New Jersey this side of the magazine has appealed to our presidents only, but they have found it most helpful.

North Carolina: I feel that the official organ of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations is a very splendid magazine. I do not know that I

could suggest any improvements unless it be to keep the articles as short as possible, and where a long one is necessary, that it be broken up with sub-heads.

Texas: I express it as my opinion, that without incurring a larger expenditure of money, no suggestions can be made for enhancing the value of the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. It answers its purpose, and it is to be regretted that we cannot persuade a larger number of our members to subscribe to it.

Vermont: As far as Vermont is concerned we wish no change in the form or subject matter. The articles printed serve our societies in their programs, and I think some of the societies would greatly miss them. Of course the state reports are of great interest and are an inspiration to all who look them over. In my work as state organizer during the past two years before becoming president, I learned the great value of the magazine. If more people would subscribe for it in our state, we would progress faster. I hope it will continue in the main as it is.

Washington: As it is now, its strong point is organization help. I think every worker should have it for inspiration and information, but it fails in its appeal to the home reader. It is too dignified.

I would very much dislike to see the paper confined to state news and department articles. These are needed, but only serve part of the purpose of the magazine as I understand it. It would kill it entirely as a home paper if this were done.

Wisconsin: We discussed the magazine at our last meeting, and I find the state workers all pleased with it in its present form. They find, as Congress workers, the President's Desk and State News most helpful, but express the opinion that the program helps and short articles are helpful to the newly organized circles. They therefore are in favor of good, short articles on child training and similar topics, which can be read in meetings where talent for papers or discussions is not available. We all seem to like it as it is.

## Home Economics Division, United States Bureau of Education

By MRS. HENRIETTA CALVIN

The Home Economics Division of the Federal Bureau of Education is one of the youngest divisions in the bureau. We really have existed just two years. We celebrated our second birthday on the fifteenth of March. We started out on a tour of investigation as soon as we went into the bureau. I say "We"—this is not an editorial "we," this is a "we," because there are two of us; and part of it was a paper tour, and part of it was a real tour, to find out what was being done in the schools of the United States under the name—and the names are legion—home economics, household economy, household arts, domestic science, domestic art, cooking, sewing, and all the rest of them.

We found that there are as many different kinds of things being done in as many different ways as there were different names. But all of them were trying to teach the young

folks something about making homes. And so you see that after all it is a problem of school that we are trying to consider. We found out, for instance, that there are 18,000 young women studying today home economics in colleges and universities and normal schools. Those young women are the prospective mothers of the next generation. They are going to start a little ahead of where some of us started.

Then there are 5,000 cities giving some training in household matters, in the public schools. There have been a thousand high schools opened which have opened up courses of home economics in the last two years, and if we figure conservatively it means about 500,000 girls in the cities and villages are receiving some instruction in home making.

No, we cannot give the girls all the mothers know; but neither will the mothers give them all they know.

We can give the girls a look toward home. We can make them understand that there is knowledge desirable to have for every home maker. We can, I hope, instill in the hearts of every girl that the vocation of home making is the highest calling that can come to her. We can make her feel, I think, the responsibility and gravity in her taking up that profession. For instance, when you understand all that can be understood about home making, the preparation of three meals a day for 365 days in the year is not drudgery; it is the finest kind of service. It is sending out a group of people three times a day better physically, and I am thinking that because of that better morally, because of what has been done. Braver, morally to do their part, to say "housework is not drudgery," because drudgery is work minus brains, and keeping a home at its best is never a job without brains.

Home economics means something more than food, but it means food, as well as the other things, because so much of our money goes for food; so much of our time goes in the preparation of food; so much of the health is dependent upon food; and so food must be studied; slothing must be studied.

A very eminent, a very leading woman in educational circles, perhaps the most prominent woman in educational circles in the United States, made the remark that a great many women would never have need of home economics training. And the message was brought to me today from her, and I said, "I cannot think that. I know there are 8,000,000 wage earning women in America, but every wage earning woman to be efficient must be well, and to be well they must know the essential things in regard to health and concerning food and sanitation, and general hygiene, and every woman who works for wages of that 8,000,000 must know how to select her clothes, that they may serve her and be within her means, and be suitable to her sphere in life, and she must

be able to secure for herself a sanitary dwelling, and so I would not even include the 8,000,000 women who are wage earners, but do not forget that 95 per cent. of all American women marry, and 87 per cent. of all those married women are mothers, and that every woman has a right to be trained for that which is essentially her job in life."

The fact that many of us return to the wage earning work after or during that home period is in no way an excuse for us not knowing the main occupation of our lives.

At the present time the Bureau of Education is trying to stimulate the teachers. Can you understand that the youngest subject in the curriculum is inevitably taught in an experimental way, and the worst of it is the experimental teacher in home economics usually teaches three years and proceeds to practice the thing in her home, and we have to start in with a lot of new teachers. So the Bureau of Education has been trying to carry from one teacher who is successful the methods that she has over to the other teacher who has not yet solved her problems. We have been trying to gather groups of teachers for some problems for conferences—they are really conferences; we confer, we talk to teach other, we presented our troubles, we discussed our successes, we expressed our desires, and we encouraged each other in our struggles. So the Bureau of Education has been holding conferences over the country simply to get a group together who had common problems and work them out, and we have been publishing what we call "circular letters." I always feel ashamed of the circular letters because they are so cheaply gotten up, but the Bureau of Education and all other governmental things have a lot of red tape to unroll when we get to printing in good form, but we can put out a circular letter in a day; and so a great deal of material goes out in circular letter form, which is merely a letter carrying out the information that has been gathered

from a hundred women to each of 3,000 or 4,000 women. It is just another way of gossips, carrying the best from one to the other that the knowledge may become permanent.

At this particular moment it would be strange if we were not teaching the war situation in some way. We are trying to round up every teacher of home economics in the United States into the line for the saving of food. We are leaving it up to others to pick up the question of producing more food; we want every teacher of home economics in the United States to stand for the saving of food. We are trying to line up every sewing class in the United States sometime during the month of May to sew for the Red Cross. Now, if you think of 500,000 school children, 18,000 efficient young college women, every one doing some piece of actual sewing for the Red Cross—and we say, "Coöperate with the Red Cross circle of your city. If there is not a Red Cross circle, organize one. If you cannot take time to organize, get busy and sew and have the sewing ready when the circle is organized."

It is so easy to get the material to sew on, Red Cross circle or none, because when a girl is willing to lay aside her own fancy work and put her needle into the common and coarser cloth that goes for the wounded man in France, every person is willing to give that girl something good and new and solid to sew on.

#### SAVING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Coming back to the question of food saving, a slice of bread is not much to waste, is it? In your homes you know a slice of bread is wasted each day by some one. Some member of the family crumbles a slice of bread while they talk; somebody breaks it and eats a part and leaves the rest; some slice of bread dries in the bread box, and then can talk about "leftovers," but it is easier to throw out than it is to work over, and only one slice of bread! And yet in the 20,000,000 American families, one slice of bread in every family

means what? It means a million pounds of bread a day wasted—no inconsiderable amount of saving.

I do not say that any of us women ever waste sugar, but I have seen men who left a teaspoonful of sugar in the bottom of their cups every time they ate. Three teaspoonfuls make a tablespoonful, and one tablespoonful of sugar saved in every American family a day means 600,000 pounds of sugar a day. A teaspoonful of butter, just that little bit, left on the edge of the plate, just that little extra helping that somebody took, just that little bit that was carelessly used, means nearly 200,000 pounds of butter a day.

Those are things that we women can save. It is much easier to let a thing go than it is to nag yourself over and over again to save it, and if you are merely saving for your own pocketbook there are times when it would be better for you to throw it away than to take your time; but remember, you are not saving now for your own pocketbooks. The time when we consider our own pocketbook is gone. We are saving now for the sake of our country, and now when we save a slice of bread it means that there is one more slice of bread in our country to use for the 200,000 undernourished children in New York or those thousands upon thousands of hungry people among our Allies.

So the saving that we are advocating today is not a saving for the sake of your own pocketbook; it is a saving for the sake of your country, and if we can just stir every American woman to save for that reason!

Let me warn you one minute: We are trying to make this impression on the home economics people. To waste a national resource is a crime, and that is the waste of bread and butter and eggs and things of that kind. To squander your own money is your own business, and nobody else's. In other words, if you have the money and you cannot make any better use of it than to buy an expensive hat, put it on top of your

head, if you want to; nobody could eat that hat; nobody could wear that hat to keep them warm; nobody could wear that hat on their feet when they were in the trenches; and if we all suddenly stop buying hats, the poor little milliner sells to us and on back to the girl who took a bit of ribbon and colored it and put it on a stem and called it a flower, they would all be out of work. Let us be wise and understand that to waste the least thing that another can eat or wear or keep warm with is almost a crime; to squander one's own money foolishly is purely a matter of one's own pocketbook, but before you suddenly swear off from all of your little personal indulgences, be careful that you do not decide upon things that will endanger other women who are working for a living.

I went into one of the larger department stores and remarked to a saleswoman, "You are not having any business these days, are you?" She said, "I will tell you we are not, and every girl in this store is being

afraid she will lose her job," because we have all stopped buying. If we ought to stop buying, that is one question; but if we are only having a case of hysterics about buying, we had better remember a good many little blocks are set up in a row, and when we knock down one we knock down all. So I would like to see this army of home economics women all over the country working together with the Club women and Congress women in steadying the women of America in this crisis, that they may distinguish between that which is well to do, and that which must be avoided.

The home economics division of the Bureau of Education is little. It is just trying to use these particular teachers and trying to help their work a little bit and encourage them in their work, and through them reach the daughters of the mothers who have not time or knowledge or ability or willingness to teach their children.

### What Billy Sunday Thinks of Child Nurture

"Launching a boy or girl upon a life of virtue and righteousness and decency is greater than launching the greatest battleship. Your baby is a jewel; polish it; God

wants it for his crown. You get the girls and boys started right and the devil will hang crape on his door, bank the fires and hell will be for rent."

### Leaflets and Pamphlets of The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations

1. What We Do with the Dimes.
2. How to Organize Parents' Associations or Mothers' Circles.
3. One Thousand Good Books for Children. 10 cents.
4. Year Book. 10 cents.
5. Twenty Years' Work for Child Welfare. 10 cents.
6. Parents' Associations or Departments in Church or Sunday School.
7. What the National Congress of

- Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations Expects of Local Organizations.
8. What Prominent Educators think of the Movement.
9. Three Sufficient Reasons for a Parent-Teacher Association.
10. Duty of Parents to Children in Regard to Sex. 10 cents.
11. Evolution of the Mothers' Pension.

